



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

April 7, 2011

Lightfoot: Reductions, restructuring required at Marshall Center

Marshall Space Flight Center Director Robert Lightfoot held a workforce all-hands meeting April 5 to discuss necessary reductions to the center's institutional spending that will result in reduced or eliminated support services and the loss of some 150 to 250 contractor positions.

The changes come as a result of a series of budget continuing resolutions in fiscal year 2011; transitioning from 2 year to 1 year funding, eliminating the ability to carry over funds from FY2010 into FY2011; and directed reductions to NASA's Cross-Agency Support account which funds institutional maintenance and operations

across the agency. Lightfoot explained that NASA is funded by seven cost accounts (Exploration, Space Operations, Science, Aeronautics, Education, Cross-Agency Support and Construction of Facilities) and may not move money between accounts without the approval of Congress.

The result, Lightfoot said, is a \$30 million deficit in Marshall's Center Management & Operations (CM&O) funding level, which is a 10 percent reduction to the Center's CM&O budget and 25 percent to the procurement portion of that budget. Much of the CM&O funding goes to pay civil service salaries, said Lightfoot, and Congress has directed that no reductions be made to NASA's civil service workforce.

Lightfoot said that as a result of the reduced funding some services will be reduced or eliminated. He said that will include, for example, eliminating taxi and bus services on the center; eliminating travel vehicles; reducing mail delivery

See All-hands meeting on page 2

NASA retargets shuttle Endeavour's launch date for April 29

By Sanda Martel

Following discussions among the International Space Station partners on April 3, NASA has targeted the launch of space shuttle Endeavour's STS-134 mission for April 29 at 2:47 p.m. CDT. The delay removes a scheduling conflict with a Russian Progress supply vehicle scheduled to launch April 27 and arrive at the space station April 29.

NASA managers will hold their traditional Flight Readiness Review, held before each shuttle mission, April 19 at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. During the review, senior agency-level and contractor managers assess the team's readiness to support launch, the risks associated with the mission and determine if the shuttle's vast array of equipment, support systems and procedures are ready for launch. The review also determines the readiness of the flight crew, payloads and the space station. An official launch date will be selected at the conclusion of the meeting.

See STS-134 on page 5



STS-134 crewmembers, clockwise from bottom center, Mark Kelly commander; Gregory H. Johnson, pilot; Michael Fincke, Greg Chamitoff, Andrew Feustel and European Space Agency's Roberto Vittori, all mission specialists.

In the next Marshall Star: The space shuttle era – 1981-2011

Next week's Marshall Star will pay special tribute to the space shuttle's 30th anniversary with a special edition featuring stories about the the program's history.

The April 14 issue will contain 12 pages of stories and images highlighting the Marshall Space Flight Center's role in the development and support of the shuttle during the past 30-plus years.

Features will include Marshall's historic contributions leading up to the first shuttle mission, STS-1, launched April 12, 1981. There'll be highlights from some of the 133 space shuttle missions that have flown; a look at shuttle flight hardware manufactured at Marshall; a glimpse behind the scenes at the Huntsville Operations Center and the Marshall Resident Office at Kennedy Space Center, Fla.;



Space Shuttle Program 30th anniversary commemorative patch, designed by Blake Dumesnil of Johnson Space Center in Houston.

and more.

As the first reusable spacecraft, the space shuttle has pushed the

bounds of discovery, requiring not only advanced technologies but a tremendous effort from a vast workforce. Thousands of civil servants and contractors throughout NASA's field centers and across the nation – and hundreds of Marshall Center workers – have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to mission success and the greater goal of space exploration.

As a final tribute, workers in the program have contributed their thoughts of what the program has meant to them. Don't miss the April 14 edition of the Star – available online at 2 p.m. April 13 and in paper copy April 14.

Classified ads will not be published in this edition. They will resume April 21.

All-hands meeting *Continued from page 1*

and custodial services; shortening hours for the Health and Wellness Center; offering fewer training courses; and establishing a centerwide information technology policy to reduce IT hardware costs.

Lightfoot said these reductions must be made to "get to long-term sustainability of the institutional services." Similar changes are being implemented at other NASA field centers, he noted.

The center also must reduce its institutional contractor workforce, he said. Scope reductions will be shared with Marshall contractors in coming weeks. Marshall's Office of Procurement will work with contractors to determine how to implement reductions.

All of these changes must be implemented by May 31, said Lightfoot. He added that an additional \$10 million in reductions remains to be implemented, and that additional cuts and changes may be required in the future, depending on the resolution of the fiscal year 2011 and 2012 budgets.

Center reorganization beginning

To prepare for new work and transition from programs which are ending, Lightfoot announced Marshall will

undergo a restructuring. "We are putting in place four top-level program offices that will best align our work and our technical capabilities to the needs of the agency," he said.

Those four organizations include the Space Launch Systems Office, focusing on development of the next-generation heavy lift vehicle; the Shuttle Propulsion Office, which will safely fly out the shuttle then evolve into a Shuttle/Ares Transition Office to conduct an orderly closeout of the projects; the Science & Technology Office, intended to merge Earth and space science research with new technology development and maturation; and the Space Systems Office, focusing on flight systems and mission systems development and operations.

The Engineering Directorate and Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate will determine if and how they should realign to support the new program offices, Lightfoot said. He added that Associate Director Robin Henderson is leading an effort to formalize the new center structure, which will determine how and where personnel are reassigned.

That effort is expected to be complete by early summer, he said.

18th annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race: A look back

Puerto Rico sweeps top awards; racers meet Apollo-era rover astronauts



It was Puerto Rico's year at the 18th annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race April 1-2 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville. The Teodoro Aguilar Mora Vocational High School Team II of Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, at left during their first run April 1, won first place in the high school division with the day's fastest time of 3 minutes 18 seconds. Team I from the school took second place in the division, and the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao won the college division. The race is organized and planned each year by the Marshall Space Flight Center. For a complete roster of winners, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/news/news/releases/2011/11-039.html>.

Racers from the Huntsville Center for Technology helped boost pre-race excitement March 30 with an interview with CNN at its Atlanta headquarters. From left, moonbuggy racers Roxana Bahani and Hunter Fleckner talk live in the studio with anchor Randi Kaye, while Dr. Frank Six, the Marshall Center's university affairs officer, and Tim White, the team's longtime adviser, look on. Six and the team talked with Kaye about the yearly event, which encourages young people to reach for new heights in science, technology, engineering and math, and pursue careers in technical fields that will benefit NASA, the nation and all humankind.



Innovation and can-do spirit were the buzzwords of this year's race, demonstrated equally by longtime competitors and newcomers such as the team from Dooly County High School in Vienna, Ga. Their unique racer, its frame fabricated almost entirely from PVC piping, bombed out on the course's treacherous obstacles, but that didn't stop the Dooly racers from finishing the course.

From left, Marshall Center photographer David Higginbotham, a MITS contractor supporting the Office of the Chief Information Officer, joins Huntsville Center for Technology moonbuggy racers Karine Wittenborg and Ezra Logreira at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center to unveil a new poster of the two racers with their buggy. Higginbotham shot the image for the museum's NASA education exhibit, which celebrates the Great Moonbuggy Race. Wittenborg and Logreira, both seniors from Huntsville, will pursue engineering degrees this fall at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. The March 21 ceremony was hosted by U.S. Space & Rocket Center Executive Director Dr. Deborah Barnhart and Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Ann Roy Moore.



18th annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race: A look back



Last year's high school division champions from the International Space Education Institute in Leipzig, Germany, this year valiantly tried to hold onto their title, but couldn't catch the Puerto Rican teams. This year's event included two teams from Canada, half-a-dozen teams from India and – for the first time – two teams of Russian students.

Ann McNair, left, director of the Marshall Center's Office of Center Operations, and protocol specialist Pat Fuller of the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, chat with Apollo 16 astronaut Charles Duke, one of just six Americans who drove the original lunar rovers on the moon 40 years ago. Duke was among the guests of honor at a special event celebrating participants in the original Lunar Roving Vehicle program. More than 500 Marshall team members, retired NASA workers and moonbuggy racers filled the Davidson Center for Space Exploration for the event. The rovers were designed and tested at Marshall and built by General Motors and The Boeing Company.



The Great Moonbuggy Race is a challenging event, as demonstrated by racers from the University of Wyoming. Trying to clear a hairpin turn on the winding, half-mile course, they overturned their buggy – for the third time in three years. Race participation has increased annually from just eight college teams in 1994 – the high school division was added two years later – to nearly 70 teams in 2010 and 2011. Thousands of people around the world watched live via the webcasting service UStream. For more images from the weekend events, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/28634332@N05/sets/72157626399160446/>.

Surrounded by Great Moonbuggy Race participants, retired NASA astronaut Harrison "Jack" Schmitt, center, who drove a Lunar Roving Vehicle on the moon during the Apollo 17 mission in 1972, takes a reflective look up at the full-scale Saturn V rocket hanging in the Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Schmitt joined Apollo 16 astronaut Charles Duke, Marshall Center rover designer Sonny Morea and others April 1 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first lunar rover's use on the moon July 31, 1971. Four decades later, moonbuggy racers seek to carry on that tradition, laying a foundation for rewarding careers in science and engineering – and perhaps one day helping NASA continue its mission of exploration and discovery. For archived footage of the celebration and the race, visit <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/nasa-msfc>.



During the mission, Endeavour will deliver to the space station the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer – a particle physics detector designed to search for various types of unusual matter by measuring cosmic rays. Its experiments are designed to help researchers study the formation of the universe and search for evidence of dark matter, strange matter and antimatter.

Endeavour also will fly the Express Logistics Carrier, or ELC-3, a platform with spare parts to sustain space station operations once the shuttles are retired from service later this year.

Crew members include Commander Mark Kelly, Pilot Gregory H. Johnson and Mission Specialists Michael Fincke, Greg Chamitoff, Andrew Feustel and European Space Agency astronaut Roberto Vittori.

The mission will feature four spacewalks – the last scheduled by shuttle crew members – to perform maintenance work and install new components. STS-134 is

the final flight for Endeavour and the second-to-last flight for the Space Shuttle Program. STS-135 will be the final mission of the Space Shuttle Program and is scheduled to launch on June 28.

Endeavour, the last orbiter built, flew its maiden voyage on May 7, 1992, on mission STS-49. Later missions included the first servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope on STS-61 in December 1993; and delivery of the first American component of the space station, the Unity Module, on STS-88 in December 1998. Endeavour is named for the first ship commanded by James Cook, the 18th century British explorer, navigator and astronomer.

STS-134 is the 134th shuttle mission, the 36th shuttle flight to the space station, and the 25th flight of Endeavour.

For more information about Endeavour's mission, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Marshall Star Ad Form." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, April 21, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Miscellaneous

CKC Yorkies, two boys, ready April 6, \$400 each. 256-425-8381

Antique kitchen hutch, desk, Grandfather clock, see photos on ExplorNet at <https://explornet.msfc.nasa.gov/docs/DOC-2704>. 256-658-3960

Pro Form treadmill, \$150; antique oak secretary/curio, \$1,250. 256-603-7692

Graco SnugRide System, infant car seat matches stroller, car seat comes with base. 256-722-9989

Intex 18' easy set above ground pool, accessories, additional larger pump, floats, \$450. 256-337-3500

Solid Oak pedestal table, six chairs, \$450. 256-683-8823

FactorX skateboard ramp, \$50; wooden swing set tube/circular and sidewinder slide, swing beam/swings, \$800. 256-655-7444

Maytag dryer, gas powered, white, \$60. 256-394-2599

King-size sleigh bed, black, headboard, footboard, rails, needs repairing, \$300 obo. 256-714-1831

Vehicles

2007 Honda CRF 450 X electric start dirt bike, \$3,200 obo 256-503-6812

2007 Mazda3 iTouring 4D sedan, 67k miles, \$10,500. 256-698-1568

2003 Harley Heritage Softail Classic 100th Anniversary, gunmetal blue, windshield, saddlebags, 5k miles, \$12,000. 256-683-8409

2003 Toyota Sequoia Limited 2WD, 4.7L V8, white, gray leather, tilt/slide moonroof, 128k miles, \$13,500. 256-655-3065

2003 Kawasaki Voyager XII touring motorcycle, intercom, four helmets, \$7,500. 256-859-8489

1997 Pontiac Sunfire, two door, two new tires, needs paint, A/C compressor, 137k miles, \$1,550. 256-520-3874

1996 Chris Craft 21-foot Concept Bowrider powerboat, 5.7L Penta I/O engine, bimini top, \$7,500. 256-714-2555

1996 Roadtrek camper van, generator, toilet, microwave, TV, air, hitch, awning, \$17,000. 256-572-0646

Yamaha TTR-90. 256-309-7582

Wanted

Students interested in obtaining beginner to advanced scuba diver certification. 256-651-9909

Heirloom tomato seeds, Cherokee Purple or other heirlooms that are VFN resistant. 256-883-2948

Caring in Action Program Recipient of the Month

Bill Anglin helps Marshall colleague after fall on icy parking lot

Bill Anglin, a configuration management specialist for TriVector Services Inc., supporting the Marshall Space Flight Center's Engineering Directorate, has been selected as the Caring in Action Program Recipient of the Month.

On Jan. 11, Anglin saw that Pete Allen, an engineering project manager in Ares Projects, had fallen in the north parking lot of Building 4708. Another team member was with Allen and had already called for help. Anglin then hurried into the building to get a blanket for Allen to keep him warm and help with any shock issues while they waited for the ambulance.

"Mr. Anglin demonstrated Caring In Action with his supporting actions to comfort Mr. Allen and to get him the proper care as soon as possible," said Glenda Morton, Safety Action Team chairwoman. For more information about the Caring in Action Program or to nominate a team member, visit <https://safety.msfc.nasa.gov/sites/cia/>.



Bill Anglin, left, receives the Caring in Action Program Recipient of the Month award from Glenda Morton during a recent Marshall senior staff meeting.

Obituaries

William Hagen, 87, of Loveland, Colo., died March 17. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1981 as an engineer.

Jack Cox, 80, of Huntsville died March 23. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1990 as an industrial specialist. He is survived by his wife, Gladys Cox.

Richard Harris, 89, of Madison died March 25. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1976 as an electronics technician.

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